

UOMC News



Unity Oldland Methodist Church,
West Street, Oldland Common,
Bristol BS30 9QS

www.uomc.org.uk

We are part of the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit.

February 2025



WELCOME

Our Mission

Unity Oldland Methodist Church seeks to proclaim the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out our discipleship in worship and mission.

Relationship with God

- ◆ The worship of God in word and sacrament in the power of the Holy Spirit
- ◆ Celebrating the Good News and the love of Jesus Christ
- ◆ Encouraging growth in faith, discipleship and spirituality

Relationship with each other

- Continuing developing a welcoming and open fellowship.
- Working towards supporting and including everyone.
- Continue developing working with people of all ages.

Relationship with the community

- Serving as a focal point in the community
- Encouraging our relationship with other churches and community groups
- Reaching out to the local and wider community with God's love in Christ offering opportunities to express their spirituality.

UOMC NEWSLETTER

We welcome you to the Newsletter of Unity Oldland Methodist Church.

The Newsletter is published on the first Sunday of each month, except August. If you have any ideas how the Newsletter can be improved please do talk to Margaret S, the compiler.

In order to get your item into the Newsletter please can you let me have it a week before the first Sunday of the following month. **The next edition will be published on 2nd March . Please can all items be with me by Tuesday 28th February by 5pm at the latest please.**

Please don't be shy whether you can send your item by email or something that is handwritten or verbal—but make sure I write it down! Photographs etc all are welcome.

My contact details are Margaret Slucutt (referred to as Margaret S) 07967102141 or email mgt.s@blueyonder.co.uk

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Our Minister is Rev P J Jackson

To contact her

Email is rook2rook4@yahoo.com

Telephone number is 965 9364

Jo Stevens, our Pastoral Secretary, can be contacted via

Tel: 0117 9477093, Mobile: 07800784587,

Email: jo.stevens312@gmail.com

Our Ministers Message

Loving All People!

When they heard this, everyone in the synagogue was filled with anger. They rose up and ran him out of town. They led him to the crest of the hill on which their town had been built so that they could throw him off the cliff. But he passed through the crowd and went on his way.
Luke 4:28-30 (CEB)

As we enter into this month that is characteristically a month of “Love” it breaks my heart to be from a country where the President is gathering up brown and black people looked upon as illegal ‘criminal’ immigrants and deporting them from the country.

Jesus in his hometown synagogue, proclaimed a radical message of inclusion and grace. As he reads from Isaiah, declaring that the prophets Elijah and Elisha “cared for, fed, and healed foreigners” Jesus shatters our expectations of who is “in” and who is “out” and invites us into a larger, more expansive view of God’s love.

The reaction of the crowd, from being impressed by Jesus’ gracious words flowing from his lips to anger and rage, mirrors our own inner turmoil when confronted with God’s boundless love. We are called to

examine our hearts: Where do we resist the expansive nature of God's grace? How might we, like Jesus, bring good news to those on the outskirts of our communities? Christ invites us to step beyond our limits, to recognise the sacred in the stranger, the outcast, and even in ourselves. May we, like Christ, walk through the midst of fears and prejudices, continuing on our way to bring hope and healing to all we encounter.

In Christ Love,
P. J.



SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

We continue to share our morning service 'live' on Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

Code 893 0313 2856

Password Worship

Sunday 2nd February

10.30am Brenda Andrews

Stewards Jo & Margaret

Sunday 9th February

10.30am Tim Lansdown

Stewards Phil & DEbbie

Sunday 16th February

10.30am Joy Harris

Stewards Susan & Debbie

Sunday 23rd February

10.30am Joy Harris

Stewards—Catherine & Alison Britton

EVENING FELLOWSHIP @ UOMC

Evening Fellowship / Bible Study runs at 4pm on the 1st and 3rd Sundays in the month.

All are very welcome.





Thanks to all who helped make Gwyneth's funeral a blessed event.

Mike was very grateful to all who contributed to making the 'Wake' a lovely occasion for friends and family to come together.

Thanks to Rev P.J. and Rev Hilary for all they contributed to this very sad event. May Gwyneth be at peace.

She will be missed by many for all she contributed to our church, our Circuit and the many things she contributed outside of church too.

We send our love to Mike, Glyn, Alice and family.



PASTORAL REPORT

The days are just beginning to draw out in the evenings and the morning, with some lovely skies at both ends of the day. The spring bulbs are just beginning to sprout up through the earth. Snowdrops are out and are bringing us hope for the new year ahead with the colourful crocus not far behind.

We give thanks for the life of Gwyneth and we hold Mike and her brother Guy and his family in our prayers, as they all readjust their lives without her.

We give thanks that Abi has had her operation and is doing well. We pray for her recovery and we look forward to her returning to church to pick up where she left off. We hold Brenda Flay in our prayers too and pray for her husband, who too has been in Southmead Hospital with hyperthermia. We must not forget Lee who is doing a wonderful job of keeping an eye on all three of them. We hold you all in are daily prayers.

We also give thanks that Kay's husband Mike, whose operation was successful and he is recovering well. We hold both Mike and Kay as they journey together to good health.

We pray for Val Rawbone that she will grow in strength and health to be able to join with us soon.

We pray for Linda who is recovering at home and we are delighted that she can join us on Zoom. We pray that every day is a day nearer to retuning to us at church.

We give thanks to Kathy Sturgeon who was able to attend Gwyneth's funeral, it was lovely to see her there and Pat and Tracey Lansdale, who use Zoom on Sundays and are part of our

church family.

As a church we pray for each other and for our extended family on Zoom, I pray that this outreach is part of our ongoing work to spread and invite everyone to share in the Love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God Bless
Jo

A Prayer for February 2 025

Love waits patiently, shows kindness. Love is not jealous, does not brag, is not puffed up, does not behave improperly, does not seek self-interest, doesn't get provoked, doesn't reckon on evil, love doesn't rejoice in evil, but rejoices in integrity. Love copes with everything; is always committed, always hopeful, always endures to the end; love never collapses.

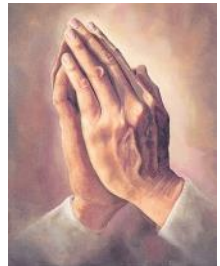
Parts of 1 Corinthians 13 from the Nicholas King Translation of the New Testament

Father God, the heart of the gospel of Jesus Christ shows us the great love that you have for all people. Show us ways that enable us to share that love with everyone we meet regardless of colour, creed or status in society. Give us courage and words to speak when we are hesitant and help us to remember that Jesus promised to be with us always on the journey.

We ask this to the glory of your name

Amen

Thank you Pat





WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025
Friday 7 March
A service for everyone!

Local Service at **2pm**

at the

United Reformed Church,
High Street, Oldland Common BS30 9QN

*Limited parking on nearby streets.
Bus nos. 19 and 42 serve Oldland Common.*

Cook Islands *I made you wonderful*



INFORMED PRAYER **PRAYERFUL ACTION**
24-7. 365 Days a year. Prayer movement. Ecumenical. International. Women-led.
wwdp.org.uk Registered Charity Number 233242

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

The Circuit will be offering in-person foundation safeguarding training on Sunday March 23rd at 2pm in Westbury-on-Trym Methodist Church. There are some limited spaces available for people from other churches to attend, please let Fiona know names and contact details.

Further training sessions are planned for Hanham and Knowle, more details to follow once they are finalised.

Anna Wheatley (annamariewheatley@yahoo.co.uk)

Fiona Laurence (fpl@btinternet.com)

Bristol & South Gloucestershire Methodist Cluster Dates

We are running a membership course at Potters Wood. This is open to anyone who would like to seek membership in the church. Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 6th at 7pm.

Kingswood Half-Term Warm Spaces - February 17th-21st 10am-12:30pm. Come experience arts & crafts, board games or just have quiet space.

Prayer Vigil - March 8, 2025 @ St. Anne's C of E Church Oldland

Ash Wednesday Service 9:30am at Longwell Green.

Maundy Thursday Foot/Hand Washing Service, Thursday, April 17th @7pm

Good Friday Services:

Kingswood 10am

Potters Wood 10am

Unity Oldland Art Exhibition - 10am-12pm & 3:pm-5pm (Walk of Witness @ 4pm)

Easter Day Service will be held at all churches.

B&SG Methodist Circuit Events

February

Saturday 1st - **Faith in Charities in Focus**

<https://mcusercontent.com/bcf1bde8bc4a29dae7362b02a/files/38bb6d5b-81ab-c3eb-72dc-f368d80739be/>

Faith_Charities_in_Focus_2025_flyer.pdf

Saturday 8th - **All Things Uganda** at Badminton Road

<https://mcusercontent.com/bcf1bde8bc4a29dae7362b02a/files/9431da63-00b1-3588-5928-a1165c98c50a/>

POSTER_ALL_THINGS_UGANDA_8TH_FEBRUARY.docx

Thursday 13th - **Circuit Resources' Meeting**

Tuesday 25th February - **Advanced Safeguarding Module** at St Andrews

Methodist Church, Elm Park, Filton, Bristol, BS34 7PS from 9.00am to 3.00pm. This course is being ran by the Bristol District in conjunction with the Learning Network.

Don't miss our Coffee Morning on Saturday 8th February 10am—11.30am. There will be our usual Bacon Butties, Cakes, Marmalade, Tea and Coffee.



The takings will be given to The Well Project which is run locally by Doreen Lindup. See more below.

Water is Life, water is food. Leave no one behind.

Self Help Africa is a charity to encourage local people to make a difference for their communities across rural Africa. It covers growing food, employment, clean water and sustainable natural resources.

Having clean water has been a project Doreen has supported, with the local community, for 40 years. Through coffee mornings and sales.

For people in rural Africa having a local safe water source is essential for sanitation and hygiene; and helps reduce disease and child mortality. In addition, water helps farmers keep livestock and grow crops, so they become more food secure and can earn a valuable income.

It is important that UOMC support this important charity, concentrating on just one element of this charity's work, which is most important in everyone's daily life.

Many will remember that Rev Veronica Faulks worked with Doreen and others to get this off the ground.

Thank you for your generosity.

£230 was donated Age UK South Gloucestershire from the January Coffee Morning

FILM NIGHT Friday 14th February .

**The Bank of Dave 2 -
The Loan Ranger**



“Bank of Dave 2” continues the themes of challenging big banks on behalf of the little guy

**Refreshments available.
If you need transport please let us know.**

TURNAROUND BRISTOL WINTER UPDATE

As the Unity Ambassador for Turnaround Bristol, formerly the Methodist Centre, I get regular updates as to their activity and thought you might like to know how things are progressing down in Lawrence Hill.

You will recall that not long after Christmas we had a cold snap which meant that Turnaround invoked the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol or SWEP for short! This meant that for the first week in January they were open for 24 hours, changing the day facilities each evening into a night shelter. Previously they had only enough room for 10 guests but with some rejigging, they were able to open up a total of 18 beds. This was possible due to the hard work of the Turnround staff but also volunteers who helped out during the evenings. They helped by settling the guests in and just spending time with them.

Of the people that stayed at Turnround, 2 people have moved into permanent accommodation, this fulfils their objective of providing homeless clients with a temporary shelter that is a stepping stone into a permanent home. One of these guests returned to Turnaround in mid-January and is apparently a totally different person, he is happy and healthy thanks to the support he has received.

Turnaround have an established men's and women's clothing store which occasionally needs topping up. They are asking for good quality men's clothing, suitable for clients aged between 25-30 and at the moment are looking for:

- Waterproof coats
- Men's Trainers – sizes 8-12
- Fleeces and Hoodies
- Jogging Bottoms
- Belts
- Back packs
- Good quality T Shirts

If you have any such items, we can collect them together at church and drop them down to Lawrence Hill.

They are also always on the lookout for new volunteers so if you have a few hours to spare and would like to help, please let me know and I can put you in touch with Ross.

Thank you as always for all you have done and continue to do for Turnaround. Whilst it is no longer officially a part of our Circuit, it remains a Methodist service at the heart and are grateful for the help they receive from us.

Joy

UNITY SOCIAL CALENDAR 2025

As you will remember during our 20th Anniversary year last year, we held several special social events alongside the established Coffee Mornings, Film Night showings, our craft groups and board games night. There was such favourable response to most of these activities that the Social Committee is planning to repeat most of them this year.

Our first planned event is an afternoon Beetle Drive on Saturday March 15th from 2-4pm with light refreshments. Come and enjoy an afternoon of fun and bring a small gift, more detail will follow but get the date in your diary now!

One of the most popular events we did last year was the outing to Oakham Treasures and we hope to be able to get access to a minibus again. We have three suggestions of destinations and would be grateful for your opinions. Would you prefer:

A trip back to Oakham Treasures in Portishead
The Lavender Farm in Radstock
A day trip to Wells in Somerset

Please let us know so we can fix a date!

Other suggested events are a Cream Tea and Gift Day on Saturday June 7th which will be part of our Anniversary weekend. We are also planning a summer afternoon quiz to include tea and a church picnic to include games!

The Alternative cricket was a big success and well attended so that will make a comeback, and we will hold another Beetle Drive in the autumn.

Unity Community Choir will hold another concert probably in November and we are planning a Craft Fair close to Christmas.

As always, communication will be key to the success of these events so we will produce a card for you all with all the dates on when they are fixed. Most of these events will of course incur a charge to cover costs but we will look to keep this at a minimum.

A lot of our ideas for this year have considered your feedback from last year, we have also factored in the attendance at the events we held to help us understand which ones you would like us to repeat.

There will be more to follow but please let us know as soon as you can if you would like another outing and where you would like to go. We meet again in February so it would be good to have an idea then. Please pass your thoughts on to any member of the Social Committee which includes Susan W, Richard and Val, Lynette, Kay, Debbie and me.

One25

step away from the streets

Our next One25 cake collection is on Tuesday 11th February. I will be in our car park between 7.15pm and 7.45pm.

If anyone needs a pick up from their home address please let me know. 07967102141 Our contributions are always received with thanks. I will as usual deliver on Wednesday morning.



The base for help and support at One25



HOME INSTEAD provide a film afternoon on the last Thursday of the month, for older people particularly for those with or caring for people with dementia at UOMC. All are very welcome.

Care Instead is a care agency based in Hanham.

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

Thursday 27th February at 2pm



Going Down a Rabbit Hole

Delving in the lives of some Eastville Workhouse residents

As mentioned in the January newsletter when transcribing and checking the registers like that of Eastville Workhouse it soon becomes apparent that certain people or families are admitted multiple times. The reasons for this and the residents' medical records were destroyed by enemy action in World War Two, but one can speculate that these people may have been unable to work for medical or mental health reasons. One cannot help delving into some of their family histories as an interesting distraction, or as we call it, Going Down a Rabbit Hole. Here are a few more such stories.

Eliza MEAD first appeared in the 1888 Eastville Workhouse Register with her children Florence (10), John (7) and Richard (4). An investigation of Eliza's journey through life showed the following:

She was born in April 1843 to Richard and Eliza HANNEY in the parish of St Nicholas in Bristol. In the 1861 census, when she was 18, Eliza was living with her mother and her older sister Elizabeth (20) at 5 Coronation Place, Back Street. The occupations of all three was given as laundress.

Eliza went on to marry George William Mead who was born and brought up at 5 Rackhay, Back Street. This road ran parallel to Coronation Place and so it would not be too far-fetched to think Eliza and George formed a relationship during childhood which continued into adulthood. A point to note is that Back Street was re-named Queen Charlotte Street which now runs from Queen Square to Baldwin Street.

Eliza and George were married at St Nicholas church on 5th July 1869. She was 26 and George 28. His occupation was a labourer and both were shown as living in Back Street. The marriage register was signed by George but Eliza was illiterate and therefore signed with a cross.

The 1871 and 1881 censuses track the couple's growing family showing six children before George's death on 28th May 1884.

There is no doubt Eliza found it difficult to live after her husband's death and had to turn to the workhouse for support not only for herself but also for her youngest three children. According to the registers the family is seen to be admitted and re-admitted for the next eight years. Records indicate that Eliza remained dependent on the workhouse until she died on 3 February 1917. Sadly, by this time Eliza is recorded as 'insane'. She had led a hard life and died anonymously at the age of 74.

Mary Ann VAUGHAN entered Eastville Workhouse on 3rd October 1869 but was later 'discharged' with the comment, 'Sent to prison 21 days'. The Bristol Daily Post reported the incident on 9th November that year with the headline, A TROUBLESOME PAUPER. It continued,

Mary Ann Vaughan, a young girl, was charged with assaulting Charlotte JENKINS, at the Clifton Union Workhouse. Complainant and the accused were both paupers, and having had a dispute about some oakum which they were engaged in picking, Vaughan fell upon Jenkins, and violently assaulted her. Mr. Rogers, the master of the workhouse, said that the prisoner had been three times previously charged with assaults upon the officers of the workhouse. The magistrates committed her for twenty-one days' hard labour.

Edith [Vine] EDKINS was admitted to Ham Green Isolation Hospital on 6th April 1915 from 'Eastville Poor Law Institution' aged 20 with 'phthisis', tuberculosis. Previously, in 1901 she was living in Birmingham the daughter of Fisher (a pavement artist) and Florence (née FIELD) Edkins. Her mother died later in 1901 and her father in 1902, so at the age of 5 she was an orphan. In 1911 she was a resident of Mullers Orphanage, Ashley Down, Bristol, the census indicating that she was born in Antrim, Ireland and was training for domestic service. The Creed register for Eastville workhouse (transcribed by Shirley Hodgson) recorded that she was transferred from Birmingham workhouse on 6th April 1915 and that she gave birth to a son

Godfrey on 17th May who died on 8th August. Edith herself died in November 1916 at Stapleton workhouse infirmary, still not having recovered from TB. She is buried in Ridgeway Cemetery, Eastville.

Some of the information just leaps out at you. This entry has not been researched but tells its own tale.

Martha BRAIN was admitted to Eastville workhouse in March 1903, her address being given as Northwick, near New Passage, [South Gloucestershire]. The register tells us that she was 31 years old, an Anglican and her sister was Mrs Hick who lived in the same village. Most importantly she was single but brought two of her children with her, Ruby Millicent (aged 2) and William (aged 11 months) Brain. It confirmed that the children were illegitimate but that their father was Geoffrey LAWS, a sign writer now looking for work in Ireland. If that isn't enough, it also states that Ruby was born and baptised in Manchester and William was born and baptised in Gateshead.

Mike Slucutt

Mike was pleased to receive feedback from his last item in the January newsletter. It appears some of you had visited or mixed with people at the Eastville Workhouse Thank you.

Mike and his team are transcribing all the records related to the workhouse so people can access information on-line.

What goes on at UOMC

**Talk to Susan Weaver if you have any queries about bookings.
07460082852.**

Services UOMC have a morning service at 10.30am and there is a Zoom link for those who wish to join us from their digital equipment. The link is on the service plan page of our website.

50:60s Group—Meet monthly please contact Brenda Andrews on 07484 705597.

Wriggle Giggle Hop –Each Tuesday morning 10.30am—12 noon For young children and their parents or carers. Not 10th September.

Social Group—Each Tuesday afternoon, 2—4pm this group meet to share conversation, information and activities. Run by an outside organisation for the benefit of all. .

ONE25 Cake collections in UOMC Car Park between 7.15pm—7.45pm on Tuesday 11th February.

Coffee morning— Saturday 8th February 10am—11.30am for The Well Project— providing money to support local people in Africa to create the facilities for clean water.

Crafting Friends—Wednesday 5th, 19th February 2pm –4pm

Nita Nata—Wednesday 12th & 26th February from 2pm—4pm.

Film Night— Friday 14th February The Bank of Dave 2 the Loan Ranger 7.15pm for 7.30pm start.

Board Games - Please speak with Debbie..

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